



PROMOTING RURAL PROSPERITY IN AMERICA

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OVERVIEW

The Trump Administration is committed to revitalizing every county, city, and town in America. President Trump demonstrated his commitment to rural America at the beginning of the Administration by signing **Executive Order 13575**. The EO established the Rural Prosperity Task Force which **identified** over 100 recommendations spanning legislative, regulatory, and policy changes needed to help improve life in rural America. To date, the President and the Administration continue to deliver for rural America.

- President Trump signed into law the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017 creating over 8,000 opportunity zones – 40 percent rural – across the country;
- President Trump signed into law the **2018 Farm Bill** providing support, certainty, and stability to our Nation's farmers;
- President Trump signed an Executive Order on Improving Rural Health and Telehealth Access and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services released the **Rural Action Plan** – the first HHS-wide assessment of rural healthcare efforts in more than 18 years. Following the Executive Order, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the Federal Communications Commission signed a **Memorandum of Understanding** to work together on the Rural Telehealth Initiative, a joint effort to increase telehealth access and broadband capacity.
- Signed an **Executive Order** on Streamlining and Expediting Requests to Locate Broadband Facilities in Rural America to reduce barriers to capital investment, remove obstacles to broadband services, and more efficiently employ Government resources.
- Devoted historic resources across agencies and programs, including transportation, infrastructure and broadband, to build capacity and drive rural prosperity throughout the country;
- Repealed and replaced the burdensome Waters of the United States Rule with the **Navigable Waters Protection Rule** giving rural leaders, farmers, ranchers, and others the certainty they need to make decisions;
- Overhauled the **National Environmental Policy Act** for the first time in over 30 years streamlining permitting decisions for infrastructure projects and cutting costs for public and private stakeholders; and
- Signed into law the **Great American Outdoors Act**, which represents the single largest investment in America's national parks and public lands in the history of the country.

In collaboration with State, local, and Tribal officials and other stakeholders, President Trump and the Administration will work to bring prosperity to America's forgotten communities and ensure that no American is left behind!

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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Under the leadership of President Trump and Secretary Sonny Perdue, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) has made major strides to bolster rural economic opportunities and improve quality of life for rural Americans. In 2017, President Trump issued an executive order establishing the Interagency Task Force on Agriculture and Rural Prosperity “to ensure the informed exercise of regulatory authority that impacts agriculture and rural communities.” And later that year, the Task Force released a **report** identifying legislative, regulatory, and policy changes to promote agriculture, economic development, job growth, infrastructure improvements, technological innovation, and quality of life in rural America. By partnering with rural communities and stakeholders, modernizing infrastructure and innovating to address real-world challenges, USDA is infusing America’s rural towns and cities with the resources needed to build sustainable, prosperous futures.

Since the beginning of the Trump Administration, USDA has:

- Invested **\$721.3 million in grants** and **\$385 million in loans to improve high-speed broadband access** in rural America.
- Invested **\$42.8 million in farmers and producers** through the Value-Added Producer Grant Program.
- Invested **\$16.5 billion to build or improve electric infrastructure** across rural America.
- Awarded upwards of **\$300 million to Combat COVID-19 Pandemic in Rural Communities** including investing \$114.3 million to increase access to distance learning and telemedicine in rural communities.
- Invested **nearly \$5.5 billion in loan guarantees to make credit more affordable for rural businesses** to build and expand operations.
- Invested upwards of **\$225 million in CARES Act loan guarantees to support to help rural business recover from the economic impacts of the COVID-19 Pandemic.**
- Currently investing **\$100 million to build biofuels infrastructure and increase consumer access nationwide** while improving the market for renewable fuels derived from U.S. farm products like corn and soybeans.

Top Rural Community Resources: USDA has a number of programs and resources to help rural leaders spur economic development, improve quality of life, and increase prosperity in their communities. These include, but are not limited to:

- The **OneRD Guarantee Loan Initiative** is designed to increase private investment in rural business and rural economic development projects and to improve customer service within four flagship loan guarantee programs. More information **[here](#)**.

- The **Broadband Resource Guide** provides a toolkit outlining 27 USDA programs that support broadband deployment in rural communities. More information [here](#).
- The **Small and Mid-Sized Farmer Resources Guide** outlines valuable resources and program information about access to capital, land management and conservation practices, managing risk, and finding local markets for farmers. More information [here](#).
- The **Rural Community Action Guide**, developed in conjunction with the Office of National Drug Control Policy, provides topical insights on how rural leaders can and are addressing drug use and its consequences to build strong and health rural places. More information [here](#).
- **USDA's Rural Housing Resources Guide** outlines a variety of resources and programs, including loans, loan guarantees, and grants, to support rural homeownership. More information [here](#).

Program Specific Resources: Rural communities face many unique issues, challenges, and opportunities. Below, find important information and resources:

- **COVID-19 Support:** The Trump Administration is marshaling the full resources of the Federal government to support State, local, and Tribal governments that respond to and recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. USDA is providing communities across the country with important information and resources, which can be found [here](#). USDA also developed a **Federal Rural Resource Guide**, which outlines Federal funding opportunities identified in the CARES Act and other federal resources that can help support rural America. Find the Resource Guide [here](#).
 - **Coronavirus Food Assistance Programs (CFAP):** On April 17, the President announced the CFAP program, which provided up to \$16 billion in direct payments to deliver relief to farmers and ranchers across the country impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. An additional \$13 billion was announced on September 18th to continue to assist farmers impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. More information [here](#).
 - **Farmers to Families Food Box Program (FFFB):** On April 17, USDA announced that the Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) is partnering with national, regional and local distributors, whose workforces have been significantly impacted by the closure of restaurants, hotels and other food service businesses, to purchase up to \$3 billion in fresh produce, dairy and meat products from American producers of all sizes. More information [here](#).
 - **Emergency Meals to You:** USDA announced an innovated public-private partnership to provide 5 million meals a week to the doorsteps of low-income kids in rural communities across America impacted by COVID-19-related school closures – five times its original goal. Meals to You boxes contained 20 nutritious meals – 10 breakfasts and 10 lunches – to cover the meals children would

normally receive at school over two school weeks. In total, more than 38 million meals were delivered. More information [here](#).

- **Emergency Supplemental SNAP Benefits:** In response to COVID-19, USDA [has brought](#) all SNAP households up to the maximum benefit level, totaling more than \$2 billion per month. These emergency benefits represent a 40% increase in overall monthly SNAP benefits. USDA also rapidly expanded the [online purchasing pilot](#) to allow more SNAP recipients to shop for their groceries online and stay safe. More than 97 percent of all households receiving SNAP now have access to online purchasing across 46 States.
 - **Pandemic EBT (P-EBT):** USDA [worked with states](#) to provide benefits (similar to SNAP or “food stamps”) to children who normally receive free or reduced-price school meals through the Pandemic EBT or P-EBT program. P-EBT helps supplement family budgets by replacing the value of those lost school meals. SNAP and Child Nutrition agencies [in each of the 50 states, the District of Columbia, and the U.S. Virgin Islands](#) have collaborated to design, build, and administer P-EBT programs to distribute billions of dollars in food assistance to eligible children and their families.
- **Natural Disaster Assistance**
 - **Disaster and Emergency Assistance:** USDA’s [Disaster Resource Center](#) offers information about specific disasters and emergencies, how to prepare, recover, and help build long-term resilience, as well as information about USDA assistance during disaster events.
 - **Disaster Nutrition Benefits and Flexibilities:** The USDA Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) coordinates with state, local, and voluntary organizations to provide nutrition assistance to those most affected by a disaster or emergency. USDA Foods are currently stored in every state and U.S. territory and may be used by state agencies or local disaster relief organizations to provide food to shelters or people who are sheltering in place. More information [here](#).
 - **Rural Development Programs (<http://www.rd.usda.gov/>)**
 - **Rural Electric Program:** Providing reliable, affordable electricity is essential to sustaining the economic well-being and quality of life for all of the nation's rural residents. The Electric Program provides leadership and capital to maintain, expand, upgrade, and modernize America's vast rural electric infrastructure. More information [here](#).
 - **Rural Utilities Service Water and Environmental Programs:** Through Rural Utilities Service Water and Environmental Programs (WEP), rural communities obtain the technical assistance and financing necessary to develop drinking water and waste disposal systems. Safe drinking water and sanitary waste disposal systems are vital not only to public health, but also to the economic vitality of rural America. More information [here](#).

- **Community Facilities Program:** Essential community infrastructure is key in ensuring that rural areas enjoy the same basic quality of life and services enjoyed by those in urban areas. Community Facilities Programs offer direct loans, loan guarantees and grants to develop or improve essential public services and facilities in communities across rural America. More information [here](#).
- **Rural Broadband:** Through the ReConnect Broadband Program, USDA is providing innovative funding for rural broadband that expands communities' and providers' eligibility for Federal funding, increases access to capital, and incentivizes public-private funding and partnerships. More information [here](#). USDA is streamlining leasing and permitting to better facilitate broadband infrastructure upgrades and improvements. More information [\[Link\]](#). Learn more about what the Forest Service is doing to deploy broadband in rural America [\[Link\]](#).
- **Assistance for Tribal Nations:** USDA offers specific rural development guidance and resources for American Indians and Alaska Natives. From electric and telecommunications loans to distance learning and telemedicine services, USDA is committed to helping improve the economy and quality of life for tribes, tribal communities, and tribal members. More information [here](#).
- **Shared Stewardship:** USDA Forest Service is working with state and private partners to identify and prioritize the scope and scale of critical forest treatments that support communities and improve forest conditions. More information [here](#).
- **Modernizing the USDA Forest Service:** Implemented a blueprint to focus and modernize the Forest Service's work by increasing the productivity of national forests and grasslands, increasing access, and expediting environmental reviews to support active management. More information [here](#).

*Find additional resources and guidance through **USDA's Rural Information Center** [here](#).*

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Under the leadership of President Trump and Secretary Wilbur Ross, the United States Department of Commerce (Commerce) has made major strides to create rural economic opportunities and improve quality of life for rural Americans. By partnering with rural communities and stakeholders, Commerce continues to stimulate economic development, job growth, infrastructure improvement, and technological innovation in rural communities.

Since the beginning of the Trump Administration, Commerce has:

- Facilitated **26 investment deals with an estimated value of more than \$7.5 billion** that are expected to support over 6,700 U.S. jobs in rural communities through SelectUSA.
- Established the **American Broadband Initiative** to stimulate increased private investment in broadband infrastructure and services to fill broadband connectivity gaps in America.
- Built out the **First Responder Network Authority (FirstNet)** coverage to include 50% of the rural population. Today, FirstNet covers approximately 25.6 million people in rural communities, well ahead of schedule for rural coverage, improving connectivity for rural first responders.
- Invested over **\$2.7 billion Economic Development Administration (EDA) grants in 3,518 projects** across all programs to help communities and regions build the capacity for economic development. This includes close to \$1.4 billion in 2,773 projects to support planning, research, technical assistance, access to capital, or other activities that are essential for successful economic development and job creation in the future.
- Allocated approximately **\$374 million to address fishery disasters**.

Top Rural Community Resources: Commerce has a number of programs and resources to help rural leaders spur economic development, improve quality of life, and increase prosperity in their communities. These include, but are not limited to:

- EDA's cooperative agreement with Rural Innovation Strategies Inc. (RISI) is an example of an award under its **National Technical Assistance Program** which provides support to communities who are promoting entrepreneurship and innovation in rural communities. More information can be found [here](#).
- EDA's **Build to Scale Regional Initiative** endeavors to award 40% of its funding to and promotes innovation and entrepreneurship to rural communities. More information can be found [here](#).
- The **International Trade Administration's (ITA) Rural Team** helps U.S. based rural companies bring their products to world markets by helping them discover new

international opportunities and connecting them with worldwide partners. More information can be found [here](#).

Program Specific Resources: Rural communities face many unique issues, challenges, and opportunities. Below, find important information and resources:

- **COVID-19 Support:** The Trump Administration is marshaling the full resources of the Federal government to support State, local, and Tribal governments that respond to and recover from the COVID-19 pandemic. Commerce is providing communities across the country with important information and resources.
 - **Manufacturing Extension Partnership:** The Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) – operating through the Commerce’s National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) – has awarded a total of \$50 million in emergency funding to support U.S. manufacturers in their response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The funding allows MEP Centers to offer services that help manufacturers increase production of products that support the response to the pandemic, such as personal protective equipment (PPE), and to reach new suppliers or markets, recover from workforce and supply chain interruptions, and achieve greater resilience. More information [here](#).
 - **Economic Adjustment Assistance:** The CARES Act provided EDA with \$1.5 billion for economic development assistance programs. EDA CARES Act Recovery Assistance is administered under the authority of the bureau’s flexible Economic Adjustment Assistance program, which provides a wide-range of financial assistance to communities and regions as they respond to and recover from the impacts of the pandemic. To date, EDA has provided more than 800 grants under this program totaling more than \$760 million. More information can be found [here](#).
 - **COVID-19 Data Hub:** The Census Bureau has resources to help rural communities and state and local leaders make data driven decisions to respond to the pandemic or other disasters and to guide economic recovery. The **Community Resilience Estimates** can aid communities and public health officials in modeling impacts and developing plans to reduce a disaster’s potential effects. The **COVID-19 Data Hub** can help rural communities locate at-risk populations and businesses to focus COVID-19 response efforts and to allocate resources for recovery to areas with the greatest need.
 - **Fisheries Assistance Funding (NOAA):** On May 7, 2020, the Secretary of Commerce announced the allocation of \$300 million in fisheries assistance funding provided by the CARES Act to States, Tribes, and territories with coastal and marine fishery participants who have been negatively affected by COVID-19. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) has approved state spend plans for Alabama, California, Georgia, Louisiana, Maine, Massachusetts, New Jersey, North Carolina, Oregon, , Rhode Island, South

Carolina, Virginia, and individuals in those States are now able to begin the application process to receive those funds. More information [here](#).

- **Natural Disaster Assistance**

- **FirstNet:** One of FirstNet’s priorities is expanding coverage for first responders in rural areas of the country. When tornadoes ripped through rural northeast Arkansas in March, FirstNet powered the response efforts. More information [here](#).
- **Manufacturing Extension Partnership:** Since 2017, MEP’s Manufacturing Disaster Assessment Program (MDAP) has awarded nearly \$7.5 M to MEP National Network Centers in locations subject to a FEMA Disaster Declaration. The awards allow the MEP Centers to employ additional resources aimed at assessment of manufacturers’ situations, needs, and recovery in FEMA-designated disaster areas. More information [here](#).
- **Disaster and Failure Studies Program:** The National Institute of Standards and Technology’s (NIST) Disaster and Failure Studies Program and its responsibility granted by the National Construction Safety Team Act put NIST at the forefront in developing approaches to protect the nation’s rural communities from natural hazards such as tornadoes, hurricanes, wildfires, and earthquakes. More information on the Disaster and Failure Studies Program can be found [here](#).
- **Economic Adjustment Assistance and Interagency Economic Recovery Support:** Between FY18 and FY19, EDA received \$1.2 billion in supplemental disaster appropriations (\$600 million each year) from Congress to help regions recover from the economic harm and distress resulting from natural disasters in 2017-2019. With the support of these funds, American regions and communities hard-hit by major disasters, many of which are rural, are rebuilding stronger, more resilient economies. To date, EDA has provided 312 grants under this program totaling more than \$854.6 million. More information can be found [here](#).

- **Rural Development Programs**

- **Competitive Grant Programs:** EDA supports rural communities through competitive grant programs as well as by supporting regional entities such as Economic Development Districts and Revolving Loan Funds (RLFs). These are critical partners in rural areas for promoting economic development and access to capital. In FY2019, EDA invested 61.4% of its Public Works and Economic Adjustment Assistance funds, including RLFs, in rural areas which grantees expect will leverage over \$2.7 billion in private investment. More information can be found [here](#).
- **BroadbandUSA:** The National Telecommunications and Information Administration’s (NTIA) BroadbandUSA program promotes innovation and economic growth by supporting efforts to expand broadband access and meaningful use across America. BroadbandUSA serves State, local, and Tribal

governments, industry and non-profits that seek to expand broadband connectivity and promote digital inclusion. More information [here](#) and funding opportunities [here](#).

- **Manufacturing Extension Partnership:** MEP is a public-private partnership with Centers in all 50 States and Puerto Rico dedicated to serving small and medium-sized manufacturers. In FY19, the MEP National Network completed nearly 2,500 projects with over 1,600 manufacturers located in rural areas throughout the United States. Those companies reported new and retained sales of just over \$3.3 billion, new investment in plant, equipment, advanced technologies and other business areas of over \$1.2 billion, cost savings of nearly \$323 million, and 25,000 saved and retained well-paying manufacturing jobs. More information [here](#).
- **Rural Export Center:** The International Trade Administration’s Rural Export Center provides in-depth, customized market research assistance to rural American exporters. This research is called RAISE – Rural America’s Intelligence Service for Exporters. More information on the Rural Export Center can be found [here](#).
- **Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) Program:** Investment in aquaculture research and development is supported by NOAA’s SBIR program which encourages small businesses to leverage federal funds to invest in innovative technologies and next-generation products and processes that may lead to commercialization. More information [here](#).

*Find additional resources and guidance on the **Department of Commerce’s** website [here](#).*

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Under the leadership of President Trump and Secretary Betsy DeVos, the United States Department of Education (ED) has expanded educational opportunities for rural students and increased awareness and participation in the Department's programs and initiatives among those serving rural students. Secretary DeVos included a number of rural priority areas in her Final Supplemental Priorities for Discretionary Grants and has enlarged the volume of programs that include rural priorities and set-asides.

Since the beginning of the Trump Administration, ED has:

- Invested more than **\$719 million in grants directly targeted to rural local educational agencies** (LEAs).
- Invested more than **\$100 million in innovative programs serving rural students**.
- Invested **\$20 million in rural education research centers** and more than **\$50 million in research on rural issues** through regional laboratories.

Top Rural Community Resources: ED has programs and resources to help rural leaders expand educational options and increase opportunities for rural students. These include, but are not limited to:

- The **Rural Education Achievement Program** provides rural districts with financial assistance for initiatives aimed at improving students' achievement. More information [here](#).
- The **Education Innovation and Research Program** is designed to generate and validate solutions to persistent educational challenges and to support the expansion of effective solutions to serve substantially larger numbers of students. More information [here](#).
- The **Rural Tech Project Challenge** invites high schools and local educational agencies to propose technology education programs that use competency-based distance learning. More information [here](#).

Program Specific Resources: Rural communities face many unique issues, challenges, and opportunities. Important information and resources:

- **COVID-19 Support:** The Trump Administration is marshaling the full resources of the Federal government to support State, local, and Tribal governments' response to and recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. ED is providing state educational agencies (SEAs), local educational agencies (LEA), institutions of higher education and students with direct aid, resources and information, which can be found [here](#).

- **Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF):** On April 21, 2020, ED announced the HEER fund, which is providing approximately \$14 billion in relief through grants to students and institutions of higher education, including Historically Black Colleges and Universities, Tribally Controlled Colleges and Universities, Minority Serving Institutions and others. More information [here](#).
 - **Elementary and Secondary Schools Emergency Relief Fund (ESSER):** On April 23, 2020, ED announced more than \$13.2 billion in emergency relief funds for SEAs and LEAs to support continued learning for K-12 students whose educations were disrupted by the coronavirus. More information [here](#).
 - **Governor’s Emergency Education Relief Fund (GEER):** On April 14, 2020, ED announced nearly \$3 billion for governors to ensure education continued for students of all ages impacted by the coronavirus national emergency. The GEER Fund is an extraordinarily flexible "emergency block grant" designed to enable governors to decide how best to meet the needs of students, schools (including charter schools and non-public schools), postsecondary institutions and other education-related organizations. More information [here](#).
- **Natural Disaster Assistance**
 - **Disaster and Emergency Assistance:** ED’s **Disaster Recovery Unit** supports all school community stakeholders affected by federally declared natural disasters across the K-12 and higher education spectrum.
- **Rural Education Programs**
 - **Rural Education Achievement Program (REAP):** Specifically targeted to rural LEAs. REAP consists of two components – the **Small Rural Schools Achievement program (SRSA)** and the **Rural, Low-Income Schools program (RLIS)**. These programs are intended to supplement title programs under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act and provide formula funds to rural districts that may not have the capacity to effectively compete for competitive grants. More information [here](#).
 - **Education Innovation and Research (EIR) Program:** Designed to generate and validate solutions to persistent educational challenges and to support the expansion of effective solutions to serve substantially larger numbers of students. The EIR program contains a 25% set-aside for projects serving rural students. More information [here](#).
 - **Rural Tech Project:** A challenge open to rural high schools and LEAs to advance rural technology education and prepare students for the careers of today and tomorrow by proposing technology education programs that use competency-based distance learning. More information [here](#).
 - **Rural Research Centers:** The Institute of Education Sciences in 2019 awarded two, 5-year, \$10 million grants to rural research centers. The awards went to the **National Center for Rural Education Research Networks (NCERN)** at Harvard

University and the **National Center for Rural School Mental Health (NCRSMH)** at the University of Missouri.

- **Perkins Innovation and Modernization Program:** Designed to identify, support, and rigorously evaluate evidence-based and innovative strategies to improve and modernize career and technical education and align workforce skills with labor market needs. The program contains a 25% rural set-aside and three of the funded projects are serving rural communities. More information **here**.
- **Pathways to STEM Apprenticeship for High School Career and Technical Education (CTE) Grant:** A demonstration program to support State efforts to expand and improve the transition of high school CTE students to postsecondary education and employment through apprenticeships in STEM fields. Half of the awards went to projects serving rural students. More information **here**.
- **Assistance for Tribal Nations:** ED’s Office of Indian Education (OIE) administers the Indian Education Program, which establishes policies and provides financial and technical assistance for supporting LEAs, Indian tribes and organizations, post-secondary institutions and other entities in meeting the special educational and cultural related academic needs of American Indians and Alaska Natives. More information **here**.

*Find additional resources and guidance through **ED’s Rural Education Resource Center** **here**.*

U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

Under the leadership of President Trump and Administrator Andrew Wheeler, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has made major strides to create rural economic opportunities and improve quality of life for rural Americans through MOAs with our federal partners, supporting Executive Orders, and providing billions in grants and loans. For instance, EPA signed a MOA with USDA on February 20, 2020 that will help rural water systems face the challenges of aging infrastructure, workforce shortages, increasing costs, limited management capacity and declining rate bases. Through this MOA, EPA and USDA will conduct joint activities to help rural water systems continue to provide access to safe drinking water and protect their water resources.

Since the beginning of the Trump Administration, EPA has:

- **Facilitated more than \$40 billion in water infrastructure**, protecting public health and the environment.
- **Provided \$6.8 billion in capitalization grants** to the Drinking Water State Revolving Funds (DWSRF) and Clean Water State Revolving Funds (CWSRF). In total over the same time, the SRFs have provided \$28 billion to support more than 7,100 high priority projects. In 2019, approximately over \$1.4 billion in CWSRF went to projects serving populations less than 10,000.
- **Awarded over \$256 million across 511 projects to promote restoration and redevelopment of contaminated sites** through the Brownfields Program, of which over \$195 million has gone to communities with less than 100,000 residents.

Top Rural Community Resources:

- The **Smart Growth in Small Towns and Rural Communities** resource guide provides rural communities and small towns with resources to strengthen their economies, provide better quality of life, and build on local assets. More information [here](#).
- The **Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF)** is a Federal-State partnership that provides communities low-cost financing for a wide range of water quality infrastructure projects. More information [here](#).
- The **Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF)** program is a Federal-State partnership to help ensure safe drinking water. More information [here](#).

Program Specific Resources: Please find more information about the above programs and more below:

- **COVID-19 Support:** The Trump Administration is marshaling the full resources of the Federal government to support State, local, and Tribal governments' response to and

recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. EPA is providing communities across the country with important information and resources, which can be found [here](#).

- **Natural Disaster Assistance:** EPA responds to oil spills, chemical, biological, radiological releases, and large-scale national emergencies. EPA also provides additional response assistance when state and local first responder capabilities have been exhausted or when additional support is requested. More information [here](#).
- **Rural Development Programs**
 - **EPA Regulation Changes to Promote Rural Prosperity:** EPA continuously demonstrates progress in implementing President Trump’s executive orders on regulatory reform. Significant actions include repeal of the Waters of the United States and replacement with the Navigable Waters Protection Rule. More information on EPA’s deregulatory actions [here](#).
 - **Smart Growth in Small Towns and Rural Communities:** Smart growth strategies can help rural communities achieve their goals for growth and development while maintaining their distinctive rural character. Programs include the [Local Foods Local Places](#) program and the [Recreation Economies for Rural Communities](#). More information [here](#).
 - **Funding Sources for Small and Rural Wastewater Systems:** More than 97 percent of 153,000 public drinking water systems serve fewer than 10,000 people and 78 percent of the 15,000 wastewater treatment plants treat less than one million gallons per day. These small systems are often in rural settings and face unique challenges in providing affordable drinking water and wastewater services that meet federal and state regulations as well as ensuring that operations are sustainable in the future. More information [here](#).
 - **Brownfields Program:** The program provides grants and technical assistance to communities, states, tribes and others to assess, safely clean up and sustainably reuse contaminated properties. More information [here](#).
 - **Assistance for Tribal Nations:** More information about the Indian Environmental General Assistance Program Act can be found [here](#).

*Find additional resources and guidance through **EPA’s** website [here](#).*

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Under the leadership of President Trump and Secretary Alex Azar, the United States Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) has strengthened programs to better serve the millions of Americans who live in rural communities across the United States. A total of 94 new rural-focused projects have been launched over the past three years. And through the **Rural Action Plan**, HHS is taking a comprehensive approach at addressing the key challenges facing rural communities related to issues such as emerging health disparities, chronic disease burden, high rates of maternal mortality and limited access to mental health services.

Since the beginning of the Trump Administration, HHS has:

- Allocated over **\$4 billion in CARES Act funding to rural facilities and safety net hospitals.**
- Invested more than **\$157 million in 47 States for the Rural Communities Opioid Response program.**
- Provided more than **\$8 million in grant funding for the Telehealth Network Grant Program** to provide emergency care consults via telehealth to rural providers.
- Invested **\$5 million in FY 2020 to recruit and train EMS personnel** in rural areas.
- **Reformed Medicare and Medicaid reimbursement policy**, including the wage index, to level the playing field between rural and urban providers.

Top Rural Community Resources: HHS has many resources and programs that are available to strengthen our rural hospital and health care concerns. These include, but are not limited to:

- Through the **Community Health Access and Rural Transformation (CHART)** Model, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) is continuing to address disparities by providing a way for rural communities to transform their health care delivery systems by leveraging innovative financial arrangements as well as operational and regulatory flexibilities. More information **here**.
- The **Rural Communities Opioid Response Program** provides funding to multi-sector consortia in rural areas to enhance their ability to implement and sustain prevention, treatment, and recovery services. More information **here**.
- The **Small Rural Hospital Improvement Program (SHIP)** program – managed through the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) – provides eligible hospitals with 49 or fewer beds with funding for operational improvements, including hardware, software and training. More information **here**.

Program Specific Resources: Rural communities face many unique issues, challenges, and opportunities. Important information and resources:

- **COVID-19 Support:** The HHS Rural Task Force has played a key role in the COVID-19 pandemic response, ensuring that HHS accounted for the unique challenges faced by rural communities.

Among other actions, the Task Force worked with the Provider Relief Fund created under the CARES Act to develop a targeted allocation to rural providers of more than \$10 billion to support rural hospitals, rural health clinics, community health centers and tribal providers.

- **Provider Relief Fund:** Through CARES Act authorizations, HHS has **disbursed** more than \$100 billion in relief funding to providers.
 - **Small Rural Hospital Improvement Program (SHIP):** During the COVID-19 pandemic, HRSA has **invested** \$165 million in over 1,700 rural hospitals to prepare, prevent, and respond to COVID-19.
 - **Rural Tribal COVID-19 Response Program:** HRSA has **awarded** over \$16 million to 57 Tribes, Tribal organizations, urban Indian health organizations, and other health services providers to prepare, prevent, and respond to COVID-19 in rural tribal communities.
- **Natural Disaster Assistance**
 - **Hospital Preparedness Program:** The Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response’s (ASPR) Hospital Preparedness Program is the only federally funded Cooperative Agreement program established to strengthen in nation’s healthcare preparedness. Annual funding under this program goes out to 62 awardees-50 state health departments, 8 territorial and freely associated States, and the health departments in 4 metropolitan jurisdictions. More information **here**.
- **Rural Health/Development Programs**
 - **Rural Health Care Services Outreach Grant Programs:** Provide initial funding to get programs started that are then sustainable beyond Federal funding.
 - **Small Rural Hospital Transition (SRHT) Project:** Assists small rural hospitals and their communities in successfully navigating the changing health care environment.
 - **Vulnerable Rural Hospital Assistance Program (VRHAP):** Works with hospitals and their communities to understand community health needs and resources.

*Find additional resources and guidance through **HRSA’s Rural Community Programs** landing page **here**.*

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

Under the leadership of President Trump and Secretary Ben Carson, the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has made major strides to create rural economic opportunities to improve quality of life for rural Americans. Secretary Ben Carson, serves as chair of the *White House Opportunity and Revitalization Council*, overseeing America's Opportunity Zones – 40% of which are in rural areas. An opportunity zone is an economically-distressed community where new investments may be eligible for preferential tax treatment.

Since the beginning of the Trump Administration, HUD has:

- Provided approximately **\$6.4 billion in Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), HOME Investment Partnership, and Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) funding** in support of rural investments in community, housing, and responding to homelessness; and approximately \$2.4 billion under the CARES Act, including emergency rental assistance.
- **Supported homeownership for over 840,000 borrowers** through low down payment, FHA financing, insuring nearly \$159 billion in mortgages in rural, non-urban areas.
- **Provided rental housing assistance for 322 properties in rural areas with over 10,000 assisted units for very low-income individuals and families**, including the elderly and disabled.
- **Assisted over 31,000 elderly Americans in rural areas** through the HECM program, which provided nearly \$9 billion to elderly borrowers
- **Provided an estimated \$3.2 billion to over 600 Native American tribes to address housing and community needs**; and an additional \$300 million under the CARES Act.

Top Rural Community Resources: HUD has a number of programs and resources available to help rural leaders build safe, affordable housing and maintain their communities. These include, but are not limited to:

- The **Rural Gateway** is an information clearinghouse providing technical assistance, training workshops, and peer learning and resource sharing to support rural housing and economic development. More information [here](#).
- Under the **Community Development Block Grant Program**, States award grants to smaller units of local government that develop and preserve decent affordable housing, to provide services to the most vulnerable in our communities, and to create and retain jobs. More information [here](#).

Program Specific Resources: Rural communities face many unique issues, challenges, and opportunities. Below, find important information and resources:

- **COVID-19 Support:** The Trump Administration is marshaling the full resources of the Federal government to support State, local, and Tribal governments response to and recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. HUD is providing communities across the country with important information and resources, which can be found [here](#).
- **Natural Disaster Assistance**
 - **Disaster and Emergency Assistance:** For most disasters, HUD’s assistance primarily comes in the forms of mortgage assistance and regulatory flexibilities to support impacted communities and individuals. In the event of large-scale disasters, Congress has appropriated funds to the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) through the Community Development Block Grant-Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) program to further aid significant unmet needs for long-term recovery. More information [here](#).
- **Rural Development Programs**
 - **Rural Capacity Building for Community Development and Affordable Housing Program:** Through funding of national organizations with expertise in rural housing and community development, the Rural Capacity Building Program enhances the capacity and ability of local governments, Indian tribes, housing development organizations, rural Community Development Corporations (CDCs), and rural Community Housing Development Organizations (CHDOs), to carry out community development and affordable housing activities that benefit low- and moderate-income families and persons in rural areas. More information [here](#).
 - **Assistance for Tribal Nations:** HUD's Office of Native American Programs (ONAP) administers housing and community development programs that benefit American Indian and Alaska Native tribal governments, tribal members, the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands, Native Hawaiians, and other Native American organizations. More information [here](#).

*Find additional resources and guidance through **HUD’s Rural Gateway** [here](#).*

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

The United States Department of the Interior (DOI) manages nearly one fifth of the surface acreage in the United States, much of which encompasses rural areas and tribal lands. Under the leadership of President Trump and Secretary David Bernhardt, DOI is making major strides to support priorities in rural American by facilitating economic development in Indian country, expanding access to recreational activities on DOI managed lands, promoting infrastructure development, and addressing invasive species that threaten economic or infrastructure development in rural communities.

Since the beginning of the Trump Administration, DOI has:

- Disbursed more than **\$2 billion in Payments in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) funding** to over 1,900 local governments around the country.
- Granted more than **\$592 million for outdoor recreational and conservation projects through the Land and Water Conservation Fund** to all 50 States, five U.S. territories, and the District of Columbia.
- Invested \$481 million to protect the foundation of rural economies by fighting invasive species that damage the water and energy infrastructure, exacerbate wildland fire risks, degrade recreational opportunities, and diminish agricultural prosperity.
- **Expanded public access to hunting and fishing on 3.7 million acres** on DOI managed lands nationwide.
- **Increased Oil production from DOI managed leases by over 1 billion** barrels for the first time in history.

Top Rural Community Resources: DOI offers various resources and programs designed to support and strengthen rural communities. These include, but are not limited to:

- The **Rural Fire Readiness** program to enhance wildland firefighting capabilities in rural areas. More information [here](#).
- Through the **Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILT)** program the Administration provides Federal payments to local governments that help offset losses in property taxes due to the existence of nontaxable Federal lands within their boundaries. More information [here](#).
- Through the **Rural Water Supply Program**, the Bureau of Reclamation is working with rural communities in Reclamation States on a cost-shared basis to assess their potable water supply needs and to identify options to address those needs. More information [here](#).

Program Specific Resources: Rural communities and tribal nations face many unique issues, challenges, and opportunities. Below, find important information and resources:

- **Natural Disaster Assistance**

- **Natural And Cultural Resources (NCR) Recovery Support Function (RSF):** The NCR RSF mission is to integrate Federal assets and capabilities to help Local, State, Tribal, Territorial, and Insular Area governments address long-term environmental and cultural resource recovery needs after large-scale and catastrophic incidents. More information [here](#).
- **Tribal Assistance Coordination Group:** The Tribal Assistance Coordination Group or TAC-G is a Multi-Agency Coordination (MAC) group that assists Federally Recognized Tribes during emergencies and disasters, as well as providing information and technical assistance, for tribal emergency management programs. The TAC-G consists of partners from all levels of government (Tribal, Federal, State, county, local, etc.) as well as non-profit aid organizations and the private sector. More information [here](#).
- **The National Fire Plan-Wildland Urban Interface Community Fire Assistance:** This program assists rural communities at risk from catastrophic wildland fires. More information [here](#). And the Rural Fire Readiness program enhances wildland firefighting capabilities in rural areas. More information [here](#).

- **Rural Development Programs**

- **Energy and Minerals Management:** The Bureau of Land Management supports an all-of-the-above energy approach, which includes oil and gas, coal, strategic minerals, and renewable energy resources such as wind, geothermal and solar—all of which may be developed on public lands and subject to free markets. This approach strengthens American energy security, supports job creation, and strengthens America's energy infrastructure. More information [here](#).
- **Land and Water Conservation Fund:** The Land and Water Conservation Fund invests earnings from offshore oil and gas leasing to help strengthen communities, preserve our history and protect our national endowment of lands and waters. More information [here](#).
- **Historic Preservation Grants:** The Historic Preservation Fund, administered by the National Park Service, acts as the catalyst for America's efforts to preserve its past for future generations by awarding more than \$400 million to State and local governments, Native American Tribes, nonprofit organizations, and educational institutions, for preservation projects in all 50 States and the U.S. Territories. More information [here](#).
- **Rural Broadband:** DOI is streamlining leasing and permitting to better facilitate broadband infrastructure upgrades and improvements consistent with Executive Order 13821. More information [here](#). Learn more about what DOI agencies are doing to deploy broadband in rural America: [Bureau of Land Management](#), [Fish and Wildlife Service](#), and [National Park Service](#).

- **Tribal Development Programs**

- **The Office of Trust Services (OTS):** OTS carries out Indian Affairs trust responsibilities to Indian tribes and individuals and oversees all headquarter activities associated with management and protection of trust and restricted lands, natural resources, and real estate services. Below are some of the programs and services offered by the Office of Trust Services. More information [here](#).
 - Division of Natural Resources Programs [here](#).
 - Division of Economic Development Programs [here](#).
 - Workforce Planning and Development Office/Pathways Internship Program [here](#).
 - Integrated Resource Management Planning resources [here](#).
- **Bureau of Indian Education (BIE):** BIE’s mission is to provide quality education opportunities from early childhood through life in accordance with a tribe’s needs for cultural and economic well-being, in keeping with the wide diversity of Indian tribes and Alaska Native villages as distinct cultural and governmental entities. Below are some of the programs and services offered by the BIE. More information [here](#).
 - Tribal Education Department Grant Program [here](#).
 - Indian School Equalization Program [here](#).
 - Tribally Controlled Schools Program [here](#).
 - Johnson-O’Malley Programs [here](#).
 - Supplemental Title Programs [here](#).
 - Academic Achievement Programs [here](#).
 - Family and Child Education (FACE) Program [here](#).
- **Office of Indian Services:** supports families and makes communities safer for American Indian and Alaska Native people by promoting safe and quality living environments, strong communities, and individual rights, while enhancing protection of the lives, prosperity, and well-being of American Indians and Alaska Natives. Below are some of the programs and services offered by the Office of Indian Services. More information [here](#).
 - Child and Adult Protective Services [here](#).
 - Welfare Assistance [here](#).
 - Financial Assistance and Social Services (FASS) Program [here](#).
 - Housing Improvement Program [here](#).

*Find additional resources and guidance through **DOI’s** website [here](#).*

SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

Under the leadership of President Trump and Administrator Jovita Carranza, the United States Small Business Administration (SBA), is increasing access to capital, improving opportunities for public and private investments in rural America, helping rural businesses export products around the world, and increasing the resiliency of rural communities through small business development. In April 2018, for example, the SBA and USDA signed a **Memorandum of Understanding** to improve program effectiveness and increase access to capital through enhanced collaboration and coordination between the two agencies. The combined efforts aims to achieve the President's vision of a rural America with world-class resources and the tools and support necessary to build robust and sustainable communities.

Since the beginning of the Trump Administration, SBA has:

- Made **\$80 billion (20 percent) worth of CARES Act Paycheck Protection Program loans in rural communities** across the country.
- Made **over 37,000 traditional SBA loans worth over \$15.6 billion** in rural communities.
- **Expanded 7 new women business centers that provide services in rural and underserved communities** through the Office of Women Business Ownership.
- **Expanded 7 new Regional Innovative Clusters which focus on rural small business creation** that bring much-needed education, training and expertise to support small business growth in rural locations across the country.

Rural Community Resources: SBA has a number of programs and resources to help rural leaders spur economic development, improve quality of life, and increase prosperity in their communities. These include, but are not limited to:

- SBA's **Small Business COVID-19 Resources** outline funding and guidance support to assist small businesses during the COVID-19 pandemic. More information **here**.
- SBA's **Lender Match program** is a free online tool that connects small businesses with SBA-approved Community Development Financial Institutions and small lenders. More information **here**.

Program Specific Resources: Rural communities face many unique issues, challenges, and opportunities. Below, find important information and resources:

- **COVID-19 Support:** The Trump Administration marshaled the full resources of the Federal government to support State, local, and Tribal governments' response to and recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.
 - **Paycheck Protection Program:** SBA approved \$525 billion in lending through the Paycheck Protection Program, which provided capital for small businesses to keep their workers on the payroll. PPP loans can be fully forgiven if the funds are used for approved payroll and non-payroll costs. More information **here**.
 - **Economic Injury Disaster Loan:** In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, small business owners, including agricultural businesses, and nonprofit organizations in all U.S. states,

Washington D.C., and territories can apply for an Economic Injury Disaster Loan. The EIDL program is designed to provide economic relief to businesses that are currently experiencing a temporary loss of revenue due to coronavirus (COVID-19). Small businesses can view additional EIDL information [here](#).

- **Natural Disaster Assistance**

- **SBA Disaster Assistance:** Through its Office of Disaster Assistance, SBA is responsible for providing affordable, timely and accessible financial assistance to businesses of all sizes, private non-profit organizations, homeowners, and renters following a disaster. Current disaster declarations and preparedness resources can be found [here](#).

- **Rural Development/Small Business Programs**

- **Lending Programs:** Access to capital has historically been, and continues to be, one of the biggest challenges small businesses face. The SBA administers several programs geared toward providing capital to small businesses. More information [here](#).
- **HUBZones:** Located in historically underused business zones, small business owners can gain special access to federal contracts through SBA's HUBZones program. A small business must meet certain conditions to qualify, including having at least 35 percent of the employees living in a HUBZone for a minimum of 180 days prior to applying. More information [here](#).
- **Export Finance Programs:** SBA international trade programs cover short or long-term costs necessary to sell goods or services abroad. Loan proceeds can be used for working capital to finance foreign sales or fixed assets, helping businesses better compete globally. More information [here](#).
- **Local Business Assistance:** SBA Resource Partners offer mentoring, counseling, and training to help small business start up and thrive at all stages of the business life cycle. These independent organizations operating across the United States and U.S. territories are funded through SBA cooperative agreements or grants. For information on SBA offices and resource partners in your area, visit [here](#).
- **Tribal Support:** SBA's Office of Native American Affairs promotes and supports Native American entrepreneurs by engaging in numerous outreach activities including tribal consultations, development and distribution of promotional materials, attendance and participation in national economic development conferences. More information [here](#).

*Find additional resources and guidance through **SBA's Resources for Rural Businesses** [here](#).*

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Under the leadership of President Trump and Secretary Elaine Chao, the United States Department of Transportation (USDOT) has made major strides to create rural economic opportunities and improve quality of life for rural Americans. By partnering with rural communities and stakeholders, modernizing transportation infrastructure and innovating to address real-world challenges, USDOT is infusing America's rural towns and cities with the resources needed to build sustainable, prosperous futures.

Since the beginning of the Trump Administration, USDOT has:

- Invested **\$5.2 billion in grants and \$13 million in loans** to almost 700 rural transportation projects across the nation.
- Proposed a **new rule to advance broadband technology** in rural America with “dig once” policies that improve coordination in the use of highway rights-of-way to support the installation of broadband technologies.
- Established a **rural initiative to identify rural transportation and infrastructure priorities**.

Top Rural Community Resources: USDOT has a number of programs and resources to help rural leaders enhance mobility, spur economic development, improve quality of life, and increase prosperity in their communities. These include, but are not limited to:

- The **Rural Opportunities to Use Transportation for Economic Success (ROUTES) Initiative** addresses disparities in rural transportation infrastructure. More information [here](#).
- The **Applicant Toolkit for Competitive Funding Programs** supports potential applicants in identifying and navigating USDOT discretionary grant funding opportunities for rural transportation projects. More information [here](#).
- The **Build America Bureau** serves as the single point of contact and coordination for States, municipalities, and other project sponsors seeking federal transportation expertise. The Bureau's financing products can reduce project costs, increase flexibility, and deliver transportation infrastructure faster. The Bureau has expanded its rural outreach and introduced several new initiatives aimed at enhancing rural transportation networks. More information [here](#).

Program Specific Resources: Rural communities face many unique issues, challenges, and opportunities. Below, find important information and resources:

- **COVID-19 Support:** The Trump Administration is marshaling the full resources of the Federal government to support State, local, and Tribal governments' response to and recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. DOT helps support the Administration's efforts to contain and mitigate the spread of the virus and ensure continuation of critical

infrastructure support and relief for the American people. Response measures implemented by the Department to date have included stakeholder outreach and guidance, expanded federal assistance, and regulatory relief. More information [here](#).

- **Natural Disaster Assistance**

- **Disaster and Emergency Assistance:** Helping communities hurt by natural disasters and catastrophic events is a priority along with providing federal funding to repair damaged roads and bridges. DOT emergency relief programs help pay for unusually heavy expenses resulting from extraordinary conditions, even including COVID-19 in certain cases. More information [here](#) and [here](#).

- **Rural Development Programs**

- **Rural Project Initiative:** USDOT’s Rural Project Initiative makes federal dollars more accessible to rural communities by providing affordable rural loans to revitalize, repair, and rebuild rural America’s infrastructure. More information [here](#).
- **Discretionary Grant Programs:** USDOT’s competitive grant programs provide opportunities for rural project sponsors to access much needed federal transportation funds. More information [here](#).
- **Assistance for Tribal Nations:** Many of USDOT’s funding programs offer specific eligibilities for tribal nations, both American Indians and Alaska Natives. In addition, FHWA’s Tribal Transportation Assistance Program (TTAP) builds the capability of tribal nations to manage their highway assets by providing training and technical assistance. By improving transportation networks and services, USDOT is committed to helping improve the economy and quality of life for tribes, tribal communities, and tribal members. More information [here](#).

*Find additional resources and guidance through **DOT’s Rural Transportation Resources** page [here](#).*